GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1465
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2003
CHARGING FOR POWER FROM AGRICULTURAL CONSUMERS
RENUKA CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been decided to charge at least 50 paise per unit of power from agricultural consumers during the meeting of the Chief Ministers held in March, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the States have failed to comply with the said agreement and offered farmers free power supply; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d) : The Chief Ministers Conference held on 3rd March, 2001 resolved that `itis necessary to move away from the regime of providing free power. The past decision of CMs of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise may be implemented immediately`. However, Tamil Nadu and Punjab did not agree to it.

According to provisions of the ERC Act, 1998, if the State Government requires the grant of subsidy to a class of consumer in the tariff determined by the State Commission, the State Government is to compensate the person affected by such subsidy.

Punjab, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu were giving fee supply ofelectricity to the agriculture sector till recently. Punjab has recently imposed tariff on agriculture consumption. M.P. has also restricted free supply to only small and marginal farmers of SC/ST category.